

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4976

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5664

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT SHUM KS JA

SUBJ: YUN PO-SUN LETTER TO PRIMIN FUKUDA RAISES EYEBROWS IN KOREA

REF: TOKYO 10095

1. A LETTER BY FORMER ROK PRESIDENT YUN TO JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA CRITICIZING JAPAN'S POLICY TOWARD KOREA AS SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT PARK'S "ENTREMELY BITTER FORM OF FASCISM" HAS RAISED EYEBROWS IN KOREA. RELATIVELY FEW KOREANS KNOW OF LETTER AND THOSE THAT DO APPARENTLY HAVE GAINED THEIR KNOWLEDGE ONLY THROUGH JAPANESE PRESS OR BY WORD OF MOUTH. JAPAN TIMES TREATMENT OF LETTER QUOTED YUN AS CHARGING THAT LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S POLICY TOWARD KOREA "IS MANIPULATED BY THE INDUSTRIAL-MILITARY ALLIANCE WHICH PURSUES AN ECONOMIC POLICY OF EXPANSION ABROAD AND REARMAMENT AT HOME, AND BY THE CORRUPT POWER OF THE EXTREME RIGHT WHICH SPEAKS FOR THE INDUSTRIAL MILITARY ALLIANCE."

2. HIGH ROKG OFFICIALS IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS HAVE FOCUSED ON YUN'S INTRODUCTION OF THE SPECTER OF A MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX TO EXPLAIN JAPANESE-KOREAN RELATIONS AND RLATE IT SOMEHOW TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA. PRO-GOVERNMENT KOREANS FIND THIS PHRASEOLOGY AN ECHO OF THEMES
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FROM NORTH KOREAN PROPAGANDA.

3. POLITICALLY LIBERAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITS DO NOT DISAGREE WITH YUN'S DESCRIPTION OF THE ROLE OF CAPITALISTS AND MILITARISTS IN SHAPING JAPAN'S RELATONS WITH KOREA, BUT SOME DOUBT THE WISDOM OF YUN'S BLUT ATTACK ON THE LDP. THEY FEAR THAT WHILE THE LDP HAS NOT BEEN AS HELPFUL AS IT

MIGHT HAVE BEEN ON KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, THERE IS ALWAYS THE CHANCE THAT THE LDP AND GOJ MIGHT BE ABLE TO EXERT MODERATING INFLUENCE ON ROKG HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES IN THE FUTURE. SOME OF THESE ACTIVISTS REITERATED THEIR ADMIRATION FOR PRESIDENT YUN'S COURAGE, BUT THEY NOTED THAT HE SOMETIMES COMMITTED ERRORS IN POLITICAL JUDGEMENT. THEY FEARED HIS LETTER MIGHT BE ONE OF THEM.

4. COMMENT: IF THE EXCERPTS REORTED BY THE JAPANESE PRESS REFLECT THE TONE OF YUN'S LETTER, THE IMAGE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS IN THE EYE OF KOREAN PUBLIC COULD TAKE ON A LEFTIST COLORATION WHICH COULD IN TURN ERODE SYMPATHY FOR THEIR CAUSE.

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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